

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 01097 211653Z
ACTION ARA-10

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-----108192 212109Z /72-61

R 211610Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7364
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP AMGT CGEN EC
SUBJ: VISIT OF STAFFDEL OF SUBCOMMITTEE

REF: A) STATE 035773; B) 77 QUITO 2280

1. SUMMARY: STAFFDEL FROM GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE INFORMED EMBASSY AFTER VISITING QUITO THAT COMMITTEE PLANS TO HOLD FORMAL CLOSED HEARINGS IN EMBASSY MARCH 27-28 TO GAIN INFORMATION ON USG OVERSEAS OPERATIONS. FOCUS WILL PROBABLY BE ON OVERALL MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION, AND CONSULAR OPERATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. A STAFFDEL OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE VISITED THE EMBASSY FEBRUARY 12-14. THE DELEGATION WAS LED BY EARL. F. RIEGER AND COMPOSED ALSO OF RICHARD BARNES, GUADELUPE FLORES, AND CRAIG GEHRING. STAFFDEL MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE MISSION FOR PURPOSE OF "GETTING TO KNOW HOW THE EMBASSY OPERATES" AND TO PREPARE FOR VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN BROOKS AND SUBCOMMITTEE.

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3. RIEGER SAID CHAIRMAN BROOKS, MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE AND OTHER INVITED CONGRESSMEN CURRENTLY PLAN TO VISIT QUITO MARCH 27-28 (DURING THE EASTER RECESS) TO CONDUCT FORMAL CLOSED HEARINGS ON THE OPERATION OF THE EMBASSY. THE CHAIRMAN MAY DECIDE, HOWEVER, ONLY TO VISIT THE POST WITHOUT HOLDING A HEARING.

4. IF CONDUCTED, THE HEARING WILL BE SIMILAR TO ONES RIEGER SAID WERE HELD BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE IN PARIS AND LONDON, AND OTHERS THAT MAY BE HELD IN POSTS THE SUBCOMMITTEE WILL VISIT DURING ITS TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA. THE CHAIRMAN WILL DIRECT QUESTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR (CHARGE), WHO CAN THEN REFER THEM TO MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF OR REPLY. RIEGER SUGGESTED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE AMBASSADOR, THAT THE DCM, ADMIN. COUNSELOR, AND CHIEF OF THE CONSULAR SECTION BE PRESENT, AS WELL AS OTHER OFFICERS THE AMBASSADOR DESIRES. THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE AN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT AT THE HEARING DESCRIBING THE PRIMARY CONCERNS OF THE POST AND ITS OVERALL OPERATION. THE SUBCOMMITTEE

WANTS A WRITTEN COPY OF THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE CODEL'S ARRIVAL. A ONE OR TWO MEMBER TEAM WILL ARRIVE SEVERAL DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO ASSIST THE EMBASSY IN PREPARING FOR THE HEARING.

5. RIEGER ASSURED EMBASSY THAT CONGRESSMAN BROOK'S INTENT IS CONSTRUCTIVE AND THAT HE WILL NOT BE ON A WHICH HUNT NOR TRY TO EMBARRASS MEMBERS OF THE MISSION. HE SAID SUBCOMMITTEE WAS NOT MAKING AN INVESTIGATION BUT WAS REVIEWING USG OVERSEAS OPERATIONS TO GAIN INFORMATION.

6. STAFFDEL WAS WELL PREPARED FOR ITS VISIT, AND HAD STUDIED A SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE S/IG INSPECTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CARRIED OUT IN OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR, THE PARM, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS. AT CLOSE OUT BRIEFING RIEGER SAID HE THOUGHT FOLLOWING AREAS WOULD BE OF PRINCIPAL INTEREST TO SUBCOMMITTEE IN ITS HEARING:

A) WHETHER AN AMBASSADOR HAS SUFFICIENT "CORE" STAFF TO CARRY OUT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TO OVERSEE ALL USG PROGRAMS (THIS CAME, HE SAID, FROM THE STAFFDEL HAVING READ THE AMBASSADOR'S "OVERVIEW STATEMENT" IN PART II OF THE PARM REF B);

B) OVERALL POST MANAGEMENT (ESPECIALLY OF NON-STATE AGENCIES. STAFFDEL ASKED SPECIFICALLY ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF CONSOLIDATING DAO AND MLO, FUTURE PLANS FOR AID, AND THE EQUALITIES IN REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES AMONG AGENCIES);

C) ADMINISTRATION (HOUSING HOUSING-PURCHASING VS. SHORT AND LONG-TERM LEASING) REGIONALIZATION OF CERTAIN AMERICAN POSITIONS, LOCAL EMPLOYEES WAGES;

D) CONSULAR SERVICES (SUBCOMMITTEE WILL WALK THROUGH CONSULAR SECTION, REVIEW POST RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RE-

LOCATING AND IMPROVING CONSULAR SPACE, AND EXAMINE
STAFFING. STAFFDEL QUESTIONED REPLACEMENT OF
FSO-4 CONSULAR CHIEF WITH AN FSS-4 WHEN DEMANDS FOR
SERVICES INCREASING);

E) OPERATION OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL (WITH
FOCUS ON THE OFFICE BUILDING AND HOUSING, AND CONSULAR
OPERATIONS);

F) PEACE CORPS (MAY VISIT A VOLUNTEERS WORK SITE
AND PROJECT.)
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